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No. 651

Riga, JUN 16 1937

Subject: Transmitting a Translation on "Trotzkist Agents in the Youth Organizations of the United States."

811-0008/1710

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/

I have the honor to enclose herewith a translation of an article entitled "Trotzkist Agents in the Youth Organizations of the United States," which appeared in the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, No. 125, June 3, 1937, the organ of the All-Union Leninist Communist Union of Youth.

The article appears to have been written by one G. Kocharyants, concerning whom the Legation has

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no information available.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur Bliss Lane.

Enclosure:

1. Trotskyist Agents in the Youth Organizations
of the United States.
(KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, No. 125, June 3,
1957, Moscow.)

(In septuplicate.)

2 copies held for Embassy, Moscow.

000 R (U.S.)

A true copy
of the signed
original. 13

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Enclosure No. / to despatch No. 651 of 1937
from the Legation at Riga, Latvia.

SOURCE: KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA
(KOMSOMOL PRAVDA), No.126,
Moscow, June 3, 1937.
(Organ of the All-Union
Leninist Communist Union
of Youth). Page 2.

FULL TRANSLATION

TROTSKIST AGENTS IN THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES.

The powerful movement against fascism and war known as the "Congress of Youth" has united the progressive strata of the American young generation, which is organized in students', Protestant, Catholic, farmers', sports, and other unions of youth. This Congress, supported by millions of young people of America, has quickly become a force with which the Roosevelt Government must reckon.

A great stride ahead on the road toward unity has also been taken in the students' movement. In December, 1933, the United Students' Association of America was formed, in place of two large students' organizations, and new groups of democratic students are continuously joining it. It suffices to say that at the end of last April, in response to an appeal from the American Students' Association and a number of other students' organizations, more than one million students of 700 higher and medium educational institutions engaged in a demonstration for peace, democracy, and defense of the Spanish Republic.

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The insignificant group of Trotskyist bandits which operates in the United States is making every effort to undermine the unity of the millions of young toilers and students in their struggle against fascism and a new imperialist war. As it behooves agents of fascism, the Trotskyists in the United States are carrying out the direct instructions of the reactionary and fascist circles in the United States as well as of the Hitlerites, who are connected with the American Trotskyists through the super-spy and bandit Trotsky and his assistant in the United States, the well-known bandit of the pen, Max Eastman.

The fascist character of the activities of the Trotskyists becomes particularly evident in their attempts to explode from within the Congress of Youth and the Students' Association.

For counter-revolutionary purposes of its own, a small group of Trotskyists has wormed its way into the League of Socialist Youth, and acquired a certain number of leading posts on it.

The very first steps of the Trotskyists who get into the league were determined to frustrate the incipient unity of action of the socialist and the communist young people. The Trotskyists, past masters in the art of demagoguery, putting their trust in the inexperience of the young people, try to turn them away from the anti-war movement. War, say the Trotskyists from the League, is an inevitable product of capitalism. Consequently, to struggle against war is, to say the least of it, absurd. It is perfectly clear that

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these fairy tales are grist to the mill of the fascist aggressors.

The Trotskyist Erber, who at present is President of the League of Socialist Youth, never gets tired of declaring that in Spain the struggle is going on not between fascism and democracy, but between fascism and socialism. The secondarily Trotskyists know what they are aiming at. They are aware that the broad masses of the American people so far are not easily amenable to organization under the slogan of direct struggle for socialism, while they are prepared to struggle with might and main for democracy, against fascism. The Trotskyists from the League of Socialist Youth have invented this pro-fascist thesis in order to hamper as much as possible the movement in the United States to aid the Spanish Republic.

Erber recently paid a visit to Republican Spain. He took advantage of that visit to popularize the treacherous Trotskyist slogan "War at the front - revolution in the rear." At a time when the people's front of the Spanish Republic had mobilized all its forces for struggle against the rebels and the fascist interventionists, the Trotskyist Erber suggested that "socialist" revolution be started in the rear against the Government of the people's front, likening it to the Kerenski government! It was no mere coincidence that the representatives of the young people's organizations of Republican Spain, who were on a visit to America, refused to sit at the same

table

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table with Erber, stating forthright that Erber was an agent of the P.O.U.M. in America.*

Facts which have taken place in recent months go to show that all disjunctive, demagogic, and anti-democratic attempts on the part of the Tretskists from the League of Socialist Youth have suffered complete defeat. Since last summer, when the third congress, in order of time, of American Youth took place, the Christian students organizedⁱⁿ the Y.M. and Y.W. Christian Associations have belonged to the Congress. The Congress of Youth at present has amassed more than two million young people around it.

Within the ranks of the League of Socialist Youth itself much fermentation is taking place. It is not a small part of the members of the League who ask of their leaders that they immediately stop disjunctive activities, and join the united front of youth. A considerable group of members of the League, having become disappointed with their organization now seized by the Tretskists, have withdrawn from it. It suffices to say that in the largest organization of the League (New York) not more than 300 members remain.

The grave situation of the League of Socialist Youth, which as a result of the treacherous activities of the Tretskists has become reduced to a negligible organization, induced the Communist Union of Youth of the United States to address an appeal to the young socialists to drive out the Tretskists in order to

save

* Footnote in the text: P.O.U.M.: the organization of Spanish Tretskists.

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save the League from complete ruin and from definitely becoming an organization of fascist bandits.

No little efforts were made by the Tretskists from the League of Socialist Youth to split and disorganize the American Students' Association, which embraces at present scores of students' organizations. In this case too, the principal method of the Tretskists was demagoguery.

They cannot, don't you see, reconcile themselves to the fact that the American Students' Association does not make "revolutionary seizure of power by the laboring class" the basic point of their program. In one of its circulars addressed to local organizations, the Tretskist leaders of the League asserted that the American Students' Association was a reactionary organization, and that in view of this, the League was in active opposition to the Association, and that is why it [the League] would offer to the Students' Congress the class program of "proletarian revolution."

Of course, the Tretskists did not even think of any proletarian revolution whatsoever. All this leftist phraseology was nothing but a provocative disjunctive maneuver meant to separate from the American Students' Association the vast numbers of members who stand for democracy and peace. The Tretskists intended at the Students' Congress to push their "program," in order to cause an inevitable split, which would, ipso facto, turn the Association into a sectarian organization disconnected from the masses and unable to bring the American students to their feet [in the struggle]

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struggle/ against war and fascism.

The Trotskyists did not succeed in splitting the American Students' Association. And furthermore, at the socialist party convention at the end of last March, the leaders of the United Students' Association came forward, along with others, with an anti-Trotskyist declaration and the demand that the Trotskyists be expelled from the Party.

In pursuit of its program, the American Students' Association has achieved enormous successes. Time, and the very experience of the students' movement, the struggle for democracy, peace, and the progress of culture have disclosed the provocative essence of Trotskyist demagoguery. That is exactly why the Trotskyist delegates of the League of Socialist Youth were unable to achieve their diversionist aims at the Students' convention, and did not even attempt to advance their "class" program. The December convention of the American students, counteracting the endeavors of the Trotskyists, proved of great significance in the matter of the further unification of the many millions of American students. At the end of April, in response to the appeal of the American Students' Association and also of Christian and other students' organizations, a demonstration took place, in which millions of students participated, on which occasion hundreds of student orators, speaking at countless meetings, professed their fullest solidarity with the fighters of heroic Spain. Tens of thousands of students proclaimed on that day a hunger strike of a peculiar nature, contributing

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buting the money which would have paid for their dinners to the Republican Spain Aid Fund.

Even at the time of the demonstration the Trotskyist agents of fascism tried to bring confusion and disorder into the ranks of those who participated therein. But in this too they suffered complete failure. Having lost every hope in the possibility to frustrate this largest anti-war and anti-fascist action of the united students, the Trotskyist bandits in some towns went so far as to resort to their knives. By their provocative acts they desired to cause bloodshed and confusion in the ranks of the demonstration. But these tricks of the fascist handmen failed to frighten the masses of young students.

The American students have shown by their demonstration how great their desire for unity is, and for efforts in the struggle for peace and democracy. The American students have shown that they realize what forces are at work in Spain. The powerful action of the American students and the great success of the Congress of Youth bear witness to the debacle which the Trotskyist pignies have suffered in their despicable efforts.

The Communist Union of Youth of the United States, which untiringly and energetically declares itself for uniting the entire anti-fascist, progressive youth into one solid youth organization, pays much attention to the unmasking of the Trotskyists as agents of fascism, as disorganizers and enemies of youth unity. The

Communist

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Communist Union of Youth of the United States first
of all relentlessly expels the Tretskist agents from
its own ranks.

G. KOCHARYANTS. ^a

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^a No biographic data available. Note by Trans-
later.